

CD2000--101/102

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO FACULTY OF MUSIC
2000-2001 Season

Year of the Piano Celebration Series

JIM MCNEELY, PIANO

2000-2001 Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitor in Music

DON THOMPSON, BASS



Where Great Music Meets Great Minds

Thursday, November 9, 2000, 8 p.m.
Walter Hall

Year of the Piano Celebration Series

Presents

JIM McNEELY, PIANO

2000-2001 Wilma and Clifford Smith Visitor in Music

with

DON THOMPSON, BASS



Tonight's programme will be announced on stage.
Mr. McNeely performs on the new Edith McConica Steinway



The Year of the Piano Celebration Series is generously sponsored by
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Meet the Artists

Born in Chicago, **JIM MCNEELY** moved to New York City in 1975. Since then he has become part of the international jazz scene.

He received his first critical acclaim as pianist with the groups of trumpeters Ted Curson and Chet Baker. In 1978 he joined the Thad Jones/ Mel Lewis Jazz Orchestra. He spent six years as a featured soloist with that band and its successor, Mel Lewis and the Jazz Orchestra (now the Vanguard Orchestra). 1981 saw the beginning of Jim's four year tenure as pianist/composer with the Stan Getz Quartet. From 1990 until 1995 he held the piano chair in the Phil Woods quintet. At the present time, he leads his own trio, and appears as soloist at concerts and festivals in places as varied as Finland, Australia, and Cleveland.

Mr. McNeely's reputation as an original composer/arranger for large jazz bands continues to grow. His most recent work includes projects with the Carnegie Hall Jazz Band, the Metropole Orchestra (Netherlands), the West German Radio (W.D.R.) Big Band, and the Stockholm Jazz Orchestra. In January of 1996, he re-joined the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra as pianist and composer in residence. The New York Times has called his writing "exhilarating"; Bob Brookmeyer has written about Jim: "Whatever the next step is in music, I firmly believe he will be it..."

He has appeared as sideman on numerous recordings led by major artists such as Thad Jones, Art Farmer, Robert Watson and Phil Woods. He currently has eight albums under his own name. The latest is *Lickety Split* – the Vanguard Jazz Orchestra Plays the Music of Jim McNeely.

Teaching is also an important element of Mr. McNeely's work. Since 1981

he has been part of the jazz faculty at New York University, where he is currently Adjunct Resident Artist in Jazz Studies. For a number of years he has appeared at numerous college jazz festivals as performer and clinician, and has been involved regularly with summer workshops such as the Stanford Jazz Workshop and Jamey Aebersold's Summer Jazz Clinics. He has also done teaching residencies at institutions in the U.S., Canada, Spain, Sweden, Finland, Germany, and Australia. In the Fall of 1991 he became a co-director of the B.M.I. Jazz Composer's Workshop.

DON THOMPSON lived in Vancouver from 1960 to 1965 working as a freelance musician primarily on bass. He appeared with groups led by some of Vancouver's finest musicians such as Dave Robbins, Chris Gage and Fraser McPherson, as well as leading his own groups. He also appeared regularly on CBC Radio and Television as a featured artist and band leader.

In 1965 Mr. Thompson joined the now legendary John Handy Quintet and moved to San Francisco for a two-year stay. During that time the Handy Quintet performed extensively throughout the United States and recorded two albums for the Columbia label. One of these, "John Handy live at the Monterey Jazz Festival", became one of the most popular jazz albums of the 1960's. Whilst in San Francisco he also worked with Frank Rosolino, Maynard Ferguson, Denny Zeitlin and George Duke.

Upon returning to Toronto in 1969 Mr. Thompson joined Rob McConnell's BOSS BRASS as a percussionist, switching to bass in 1971 and later to piano (1987 - 1993). He was also a member of Moe Koffman's group from 1970 to 1979 as pianist and bassist, contributing arrangements and compositions and working as co-producer

with Koffman on two albums - "Museum Pieces" and "Looking Up". He also worked extensively with guitarists Ed Bickert, Lenny Breau and Sonny Greenwich while keeping busy with his own various projects.

As a member of the "house rhythm section" at Toronto's Bourbon Street Jazz Club Mr. Thompson worked and recorded with such jazz celebrities as Paul Desmond, Jim Hall, Milt Jackson, Art Farmer, James Moody, Zoot Sims, Clark Terry, Harry Edison, Frank Rosolino, Slide Hampton, Lee Konitz and Abbey Lincoln, and appeared at other venues with Sarah Vaughan, Red Rodney, Joe Henderson, Dewey Redman, Red Mitchell, Sheila Jordan and Kenny Wheeler.

Mr. Thompson became a member of guitarist Jim Hall's trio in 1974 travelling to Europe and Japan as well as touring the United States and Canada. In 1982 he joined pianist George Shearing and stayed for a five

year period during which he appeared at virtually every major jazz club and festival in the United States. Their travels also included tours of Great Britain and two trips to Brazil.

In 1996 Mr. Thompson was artist-in-residence at the Royal Academy of Music, London, England, and performed in a concert of all-Canadian music with fellow Canadians Kenny Wheeler and Hugh Fraser. He teaches regularly at the Banff Centre for the Performing Arts alongside other major international musicians.

Mr. Thompson is currently working as a freelance musician, teacher, member of the band JMOG and as leader of his own Quartet. Mr. Thompson teaches at the University of Toronto Faculty of Music.

Mr. Thompson is equally at home on vibes, piano, bass and drums, and is a reliable and trusted sound engineer. ♦♦♦

FACULTY
of MUSIC



UNIVERSITY
OF TORONTO
2000-2001

Faculty Artist Series presents

Tomorrow

Mike Murley, saxophone Steve Wallace, bass David Braid, piano

Friday, November 10, 8 p.m. Walter Hall

The essential elements of jazz - intuition, groove, virtuosity, and spontaneity - all uniquely blended by these three great musicians.

Tickets: \$20/10

Box Office: 416-978-3744

*Where Great
Music Meets
Great Minds*

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The Year of the Piano Series presents

Anton Kuerti

2000-2001 WILMA AND CLIFFORD SMITH VISITOR IN MUSIC
"One of the truly great pianists this century"--CD Review, London

Friday, November 24, 8 p.m. Walter Hall

Beethoven: Six Bagatelles, Op. 126

Schumann: Five Novelettes from Op. 21

Schubert: Sonata in A Major, D.959

Tickets: \$20/10

Box Office: 416-978-3744

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UNIVERSITY
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*Where Great
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Great Minds*

Jazz in November at the Faculty of Music

Vocal Jazz Ensemble

Wednesday, Nov 15, 8:30 p.m. Walter Hall

Tickets: \$12/6

A Night of Vocal Jazz Solos

Tuesday, Nov 21, 8:30 p.m. Walter Hall

Free

The Jazz Series is generously sponsored by

 **Long & McQuade**
Musical Instruments

GREAT FRIENDS - GREAT MINDS - GREAT MUSIC

The Faculty of Music Campaign continues to grow in momentum and spirit. Since May 1, 1995, numerous academic priorities funded through the Campaign have enhanced all aspects of the education we provide to our talented students. We would like to thank all who have made significant contributions of \$5,000 and greater to our Campaign - generous donors, tireless volunteers and longtime supporters.

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As of Sept 30, 2000

For more information on the Faculty of Music Campaign, or to become a Friend of the Faculty of Music, please contact the Development Office at (416) 946-3580 or friends.music@utoronto.ca

A chair-raising performance

Wednesday November 22, 8 p.m. Walter Hall

Support our student initiative!! Join the Faculty of Music's graduating class in a fundraising concert for GRADitude to be put towards the purchase of ergonomic chairs for use by student performers on stage of MacMillan Theatre and Walter Hall.

Featuring

Scott St. John in Bernstein's Serenade
& the world premiere of 'Prelude' by Erik Ross

All funds raised through the concert will be matched dollar-for-dollar!

Tickets: \$10

Faculty of Music Box Office: 416-978-3744
music.alumni@utoronto.ca

Imagine Perfect Resonance.

A chord is struck, but never fades, sustained forever.



Dr. Arthur Plettner
1904-1999

Arthur Plettner graduated from the Faculty of Music many years ago and now, because of his generosity, is helping students that have come after him. When Dr. Plettner made a note of remembering the Faculty of Music in his Will, he created an endowment fund that will provide enduring financial support to gifted graduate and undergraduate students in financial need wishing to study at the Faculty of Music. Thank you Dr. Plettner.

For more information on Planned Giving please contact the Development Office of the Faculty of Music by calling 946-3145.

